



Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run COMMUNITY

Volume 33 – No. 1 PUBLISHED BY THE DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER WITH MEMBER SUPPORT Spring 2022

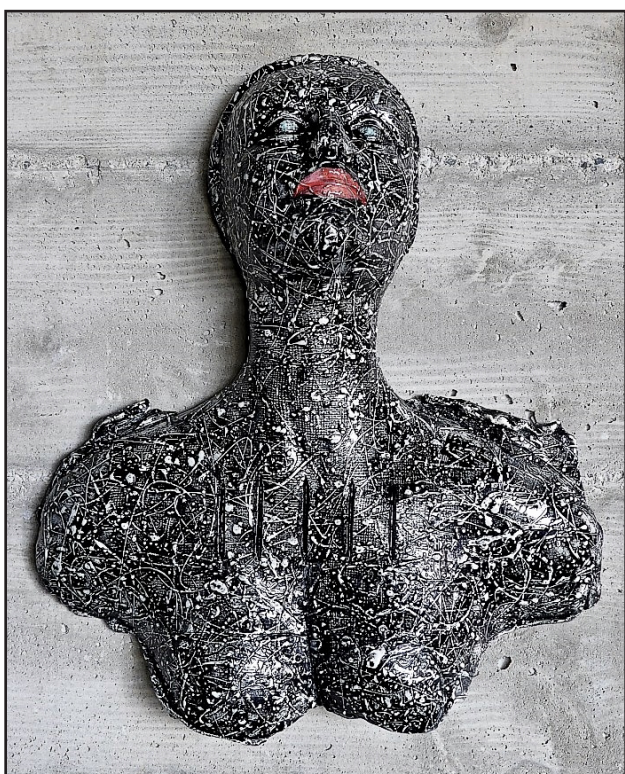
Award-winning, local artist Annette Rodgers Purther

By Sarah Fugate

Annette was born in Loughborough, England, and immigrated to the United States when she was 1-year-old. She grew up in Venice, California, and spent most days at Venice Beach. No wonder she became an artist!

She received an Associate of Arts degree in Fine Art from Santa Monica College in 1980. After graduating from college, Annette went to work professionally as a Sign Designer and Framer. During that time, she also designed many logos and art-applied creations as a free-lance artist.

Annette and her husband moved to Northern California in 1999. They built their home, including a large art studio, in Alta in 2007. After raising two fine children, Annette has returned to her art. She is a ceramic artist, wildlife photographer and framer.



“Through Her Eyes” by Annette Rodgers Purther, 2019 CA State Fair Winner: Best of Division, 1st Place, Judge’s Choice, & Alpha Ceramic Supply Award

“I work in just about any media, but seem to gravitate toward 3-D creations. I enjoy working physically with my hands, where balance and composition seem to come quite easily. And, the low fire glazes I use, which are mostly discontinued Duncan glazes, have an intensity and depth I love working with. There is no paint that can compare to the effects of a glaze; and these glazes are not affected by light. As a matter of fact, light only accentuates and brings the colors to life. So, although ceramics are fragile, they are not held back from being displayed because of possible light damage.”

In 2009, Annette became actively involved in wildlife rescue efforts. “I have been so privileged and honored to be part of both Nevada County’s, Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release, and Placer County’s, Gold Country Wildlife Rescue, Education Teams. Our teams offer programs designed to educate the public about co-existing with our local wildlife.”

Annette became involved with photography during her college days. After



Annette Rodgers Purther

“My art needs to be fun... Smile, laugh and I’ve succeeded”



Annette Rodgers Purther releasing a juvenile osprey

her experience in wildlife rescue, she picked up the camera again, using digital format. “I began taking iPhone shots at the Intake Center of mostly baby wildlife that were brought into our care. Using those shots, I made greeting cards, adding information about the species in hopes of sharing the intimate experiences I was learning about wildlife. As I learned more about wildlife, I became more interested in the environments in which they live. Ultimately, that led to capturing wildlife in their environment.”

Annette’s wildlife photographs are currently on display and available for sale at Auburn Sutter Faith Hospital in the Garden Gallery through the end of May. There are 27 photos exhibited, including prints on metal, custom-framed prints and ready-made, framed prints. Prices range from \$30-\$200.



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Spring Artisan Faire
Saturday, June 4
9 am - 3 pm



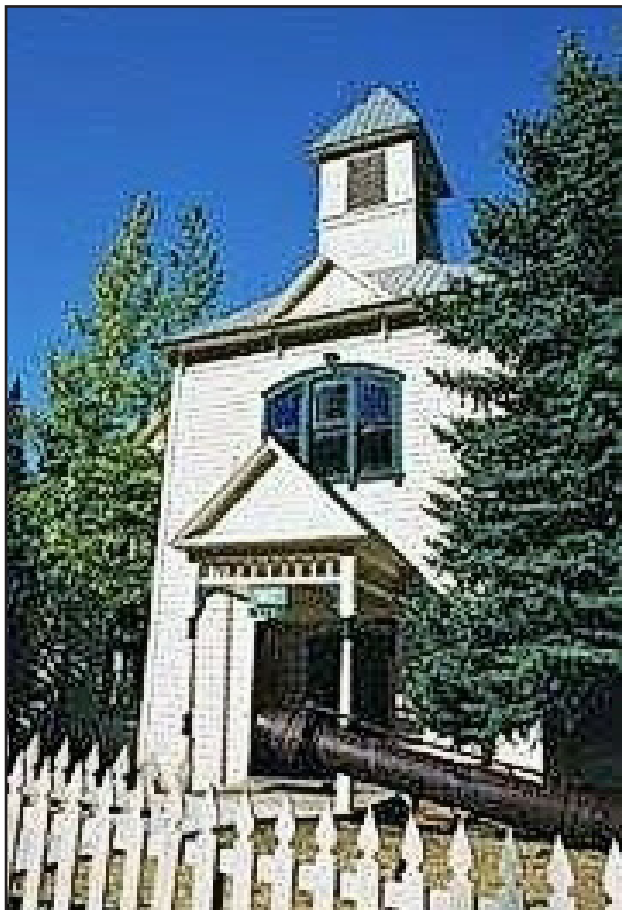
Watercolor by local artist, Betty Fetherston

By Laura Glassco

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, June 4, 2022, our Annual Spring Artisan Faire returns to the Dutch Flat Community Center, at 933 Stockton Street, in Dutch Flat.

You can imagine, after a two-year hiatus, how many wonderful artistic items are going to be available for purchase. Walking sticks/canes, silk-screened scarfs, watercolor paintings, garden/lawn art, jewelry, aprons, soaps, ceramics, cards/bags, children’s books, mixed media on canvas, Christmas items, handwoven towels and much, much more. Great gifts for Father’s Day, graduation, weddings and/or that special treat for yourself!

Doors open at 9 am and close at 3 pm. A gourmet lunch will be available for purchase. To add to your enjoyment of the day in historic Dutch Flat, the Golden Drift Museum will be open all day. Admission to the Museum is free. We look forward to seeing you on June 4th!



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Dutch Flat, CA 95714

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Views expressed in letters, guest opinion pieces and other contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the Dutch Flat Community Center, or its Board.

This newspaper is published quarterly and distributed to Dutch Flat Community Center members and to residents of the Center’s service area from Gold Run to Emigrant Gap in Placer County, California.

We welcome contributions from readers. Submission deadline for the next issue is June 10, 2022.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Attic: Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm.

Bingo: 1st Fridays, 7:00 pm. Alta Community Center. Proceeds benefit the Alta Volunteer Fire Department.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting: 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Bob Kims, 530-389-8684.

Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck: 3rd Thursdays. 6:00 pm. Dutch Flat Community Center, Stockton St. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast: 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 am -10:00 am.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Arts & Crafts: Thursdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Learn something new!

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church: Sundays. Fellowship Dinner, 5:00 pm. Worship Service, 6:00 pm.

Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting: 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Golden Drift Museum, Main Street. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-210-5085.

NFARA Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344.

Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run: Worship Service, Sundays, 10 am.

Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta: Worship Service, Sundays, 11 am. 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. Contact 530-389-2168.

Sierra First Baptist Church Bible Study: Mondays, 8:30 am,

Sierra First Baptist Church Community Lunch: Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Free.

Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry: Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm.

A message from the Dutch Flat Community Center Board President

By Bob Kims

Happy Spring,
We recently had the annual, well usually annual, St Patrick’s Dinner and it was a BIG success. A huge thank you goes out to Jono and Natalie Armstrong for taking charge of the event and also doing the cooking. They did a great job running the raffles, serving the food and especially cooking the food. Yep, the food was great. They mentioned that the Center’s new kitchen worked well preparing meals for this size of an event. Some fun music provided by Malarkey band was enjoyed also. We had a chance to see some neighbors, some old friends and meet some new friends. This event has been missed and it was wonderful to have it back. Membership applications have been coming in regularly. A number of members have made donations along with their membership fees. We want to send out a big thank you for all donations. There were some large donations that included a request to remain anonymous so this is our chance to thank them. Thank you.

Thank you for supporting the Dutch Flat Community Center with your membership fees and donations.

Now that Spring is here the nurseries will soon be stocking the plants we need for our landscaping plan. Soon we should see some pretty plants and trees in front of our wonderful Community Center.
The White Elephant and Estate Treasures Sale this summer could certainly use some items donated for the sale. We work preparing for the sale from early July until the Sale on Labor Day weekend. We will be accepting donations on Wednesday and Saturday mornings starting soon after the 4th of July. This will be the last year that Kathy and I will be managing this event so we will need someone to take over. This is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the Center so it’s very important that we make it a success.
Donations and membership fees help keep the Center running. Another way to help is to volunteer. All of our events need volunteers to be successful. The Board of Directors is also looking for more members. We need to fill some “at large” positions. We are also going to need someone to take over the position of President. My term on the Board will be over in a few months. These next few months would be a good time for the next President to “learn the ropes”.
Your Dutch Flat Community Center is a good resource for our communities. Please continue to support it with your donations, by volunteering or in any way you can.

Thank You,
Bob Kims

An ADFS Student’s Perspective on Mask Mandates

By Bailey Dubinsky

In the events leading up to the revolutionary war, Britain had stripped colonists’ rights. “The Tea Act” put unreasonable and unfair taxes on British goods. This action took their rights away from them, causing them to boycott and form the first Continental Congress. The first Continental Congress sent a polite letter to King George asking for their rights. Like the first Continental Congress, we have sent several polite letters to our school board and superintendent/principal. King George had ignored the letter and still violated their rights. Similarly, the school board and superintendent have ignored our plea to re-evaluate the Covid mandates that are recommended not required.

Like the first Continental Congress, we have sent several polite letters to our school board and Superintendent/Principal.

The Covid mandates are affecting students and teachers at ADFS. The masks have given a lot of students anxiety. It is hard for us to breathe in them for the entire day. They are hot and stressful to wear. It is especially difficult for students to have to wear them during P.E.! The Covid mandates have also affected students’ grades. After being kicked out of school for a week or so, on multiple occasions, you miss a lot of work and don’t know exactly how to do it. Some of our grades dropped due to this. Covid mandates are causing many students to leave our already small school.
One-third of our school has been boycotting the masks. We have refused to wear them. They are punishing us for standing up for our rights. We are being segregated into different rooms, away from the other students. We had to miss our recesses and classes. After our school got in trouble for segregating us, they have threatened to kick us out of school. They have been sending us out on exclusion and now we are being denied our constitutional rights to in-person education.
Another big concern of ours is our ADFS superintendent/principal is not allowing us to have any after-school activities. There have been no sports or field trips this whole school year. We have also been unable to have parents club activities.
Just like the events leading up to the revolutionary war, our society is facing similar problems that violate our rights. As the colonists boycotted tea and British supplies, we will boycott the masks and other Covid mandates. We will stand for what we believe is right.

This article was written prior to March 11, when masks became “strongly recommended”, instead of required, at the Alta-Dutch Flat School.

Monte Vista Inn

I-80 at Dutch Flat, California



Dining Room is now open **Tuesday—Saturday** from **5:00 pm**

Featuring savory meals cooked to order
and our famous homemade desserts

Reservations needed on weekends
Please call **530-389-BEEF (2333)**

Welcome Home

A personal story

By Bill Gallaher

I met Bob in college and introduced my sister to him. (I haven't figured out who to apologize to). He was a C-141 USAF pilot that flew personnel and supplies into Tan Son Nhat Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam. Many times, Bob and his air crew had no idea what they were transporting. Bob died recently of agent-orange-caused Parkinson's Disease. He and I, together, have wondered what he was actually carrying. For the past 5 years, I have watched Bob's health decline from the robust Kendo Karate 3rd degree black belt, electrical engineer, skier, musician, husband, and father. The Parkinson's symptoms started with his tremors and ended with his hallucinations and losing touch with reality.

Bob had his adventures. He loved horse-packing and skiing Colorado's backcountry. And he loved telling stories of his true-life adventures. Many of his stories were from his 5 years as an Air Force pilot. This story of his run-in with a General gives a glimpse into the kind of man Bob was. A lowly Captain having to gently tell a General that he was "in the way". (There's a little of all of us in this story. The little dog besting the bigger braggart). I'll let Bob tell it in his own words:

"Towards the end of the Vietnam War there were several attempts at hijacking either commercial or military airplanes and taking them to North Vietnam. Sometime before the events of this story, I remember reading about a Pan Am pilot who was carrying a pistol and shot a hijacker who was trying to force a 747 from Saigon. In the case of military pilots, we were required to read a monthly report summarizing any issues that might be important to carrying out our mission. The latest report that I had, gave the details of an attempted hijacking of a C-141 from Saigon to Hanoi. The hijacker was a US military person who was unhappy with the way the Vietnam War was being conducted. The airplane was configured for cargo and the crew was not expecting any passengers for a flight from Saigon to the Philippines. Apparently, the hijacker had entered the airplane earlier and hidden under the flight deck in an area accessible through the airplane bathroom. Once the full crew was on board the hijacker came out of his hiding place and entered the cockpit armed with an M-16 rifle. He threatened to shoot crew members if the pilot didn't take him to Hanoi. While still on the ground, the navigator managed to distract the hijacker and the flight engineer grabbed the M-16. The rifle was set on automatic and the hijacker emptied the full clip into the ceiling of the airplane between the pilot and the copilot. As most of the crew was wrestling with the rifle the second flight engineer found a wrench and hit the hijacker over the head knocking him senseless. The airplane was damaged so severely that it could not be repaired.

After reading about this second incident, I decided that I would never take an airplane to North Vietnam under any circumstance. On our airplanes some of the enlisted crew carried small .38 caliber pistols shooting special slugs that would dissipate all of their energies in the first target they hit and would not punch holes in the aircraft skin or go through one passenger and hit another. These pistols were carried concealed and only the enlisted crew carrying the guns, but the aircraft commander knew where the pistols were. Before we left our home station, I always gave a briefing to the crew about my expectations of their performance. I asked each enlisted crew member if he was willing to shoot someone who is trying to hijack the airplane. Almost all of them said yes and in the cases where they said no, I told them to give me the pistol at any opportunity they had and I would take care of the problem.

The real story begins with our being assigned to spend two weeks in the Philippines and flying a passenger shuttle flight which stopped at four bases in Thailand and then returned to the Philippines. On these trips about half the passengers were in a good mood because they were leaving Southeast Asia and the other half were down in the dumps because they were going to Southeast Asia. This trip



US Air Force C-141

started off on the wrong foot. We left Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines at about seven thirty in the morning and headed for Bangkok, Thailand, which was our first stop. The international airport in Bangkok had two sides, military and civilian. The runway on the military side was particularly narrow and just long enough to land a C-141. Most of the time we used the commercial runway but, on this day, everyone was arriving at the same time and the commercial runway was full of traffic. Tower cleared me for a visual approach to the military side and then cleared me to land. The runway had a slight rise in the center and just beyond this was a group of three people washing a Thai military aircraft. It was parked just off the side of the runway and was not visible while we were making the approach. We touched down normally, deployed the spoilers and thrust reversers and began to slow down. I had let the copilot make the approach and landing and he was still controlling our airplane when I saw the military airplane being washed. I looked out my pilot side of the airplane at the end of our wing and determined that the wing would hit the Thai plane if we didn't do something. We were still going fast enough that I was able to get the left wing to raise up about 5 to 10 feet. At the same time, I had to apply left rudder to keep the airplane going straight down the runway so it wouldn't hit the buildings on the right side. To give you an idea of how close we came to hitting the Thai airplane, there were two people standing on the wing. They both jumped, hit the ground, and ran as fast as they could to get away from what they thought would be a collision. Luckily, we just missed. I called the tower and asked them how they could clear us to land on a runway that was obstructed and they said that they didn't know anything about airplanes being washed. So, after that fiasco, I hoped all would go easier for the rest of the trip. Ha! FUBAR!

Continuing on, we had 30 or 40 seats available for the rest of the flight. Only US military personnel and their dependents were allowed on this flight. The passenger agent also informed us that we had a general officer who would be flying with us from Bangkok to NKP in Northeast Thailand. When the crew was ready, the copilot called for the passengers to be bused to the airplane. He also asked passenger services to bring the general in a staff car after the other passengers were loaded on board. This was normal procedure when flying a general officer and kept them away from the crowds. We always held the best seat for the generals and their staffs. In this case, when the general came on board, I greeted him and showed him to his seat as protocol required. He told me he was in a hurry and asked if there were any delays. I told them that we would not be able to take off on the military runway and that we would have to taxi several miles to the civilian side of the airport so we could use the unobstructed runway. Now most people, even those who are not pilots, would be glad to hear that the airplane they were on was going to use a runway large enough to accommodate that airplane. Not this general! He mumbled some insulting remarks about pilots and the Military Airlift Command then sat down in his seat and pouted. (Most of the senior officers that I met while I was flying saw their jobs as helping the pilots who were doing the flying. This is one case where the senior officer was just plain dumb. This general did not have pilot or navigator wings so was unqualified to carry out the primary mission of the Air Force. Additionally, he had only one star and seemed like he needed to show his importance to the air crew by throwing

This edition's column is dedicated to the memory of Captain Robert Payne. He was my friend, my brother in arms, and my sister's husband of 50+ years.

his weight around).

The General had an aide who was a second lieutenant who followed me a short distance and then asked me if there wasn't something that I could do to make this process go faster. I told the lieutenant that I would get the general there as fast as I possibly could but that I couldn't do anything about the length of the taxi or for that matter the distance to NKP. I also volunteered that if the general wanted to send a message ahead, I would be glad to take that message and see to it that it was transmitted. I did not hear anymore from either of them, at that time. While this was going on, the two loadmasters had been checking the passenger manifest against the ID cards of those on board. I was in the cockpit getting ready to taxi and asking for priority to use the civilian runway for departure to the north. The loadmaster called me on the aircraft intercom and said that there was one more passenger on the aircraft than there was on the manifest. This meant that someone on the aircraft had boarded without going through passenger services or security. With the real threat of hijackers, I wasn't going to take a chance. I called security and asked for armed personnel to use their trucks to block the aircraft and then to come on board to help us find the extra passenger. At the same time, I told the load-master to make sure he accounted for the general and the general's aide properly. I also had two armed crew members which I put in strategic positions where they could block access to the cockpit. I notified local security and the command post in the Philippines.

The next thing I heard was the loadmaster telling me the general was interfering with the process of matching names to people. The general was standing up by his seat, which was closest to the cockpit, and telling the loadmaster how to do his job. The loadmaster was highly qualified and I asked the general to retake his seat and told him we would resolve the problem as fast as possible. I returned to the pilot seat and was only there for a minute when the flight engineer told me that the general wanted the flight engineer stationed somewhere else. I had placed the flight engineer so that he could protect the entrance to the cockpit with his firearm, if necessary. The general had no idea what was going on either inside or outside of the airplane. The armed security personnel that I had requested were just arriving at the airplane and were available to help us. I didn't have time to babysit a general until I was sure that no one was trying to hijack the airplane. I told him in no uncertain terms that he was interfering with an aircrew and I told him to sit down, put on his seatbelt and be quiet unless he wanted to be escorted off the airplane and put onto a later flight. I also quoted the Air Force Regulation which says an aircraft commander is in command of all personnel regardless of rank or crew position and told him I was appointed aircraft commander of this aircraft and crew before we left Norton Air Force Base. I didn't have any more trouble with that general.

It turned out the passenger services agent had lost an original manifest and had tried to make up an exact duplicate and had dropped a name. I flew the airplane as fast as it would go and I flew approaches that allowed the shortest times on the ground and the fastest traffic patterns and I actually reached NKP half an hour before the scheduled arrival time, but the general never said thank you. Fortunately, "thanks" is not why I joined. But it's nice to hear."

I'm asking all vets and families to join with me in sharing our stories. Email your stories to hiddnlakes@aol.com to share your pain and joys with our community.

A Stellar Story

By Annette Rodgers Purther

The Steller’s Jay is in the genus Corvid. Note the spelling as they are named after Georg Steller, a naturalist on a Russian explorer’s ship who discovered them on an Alaskan island in 1741. They eat an omnivorous diet including a wide variety of food types, putting them in a group most likely to succeed simply because of their diversity in diet.

They are also often categorized as an aggressive glutton at feeders. I can see you nodding your head in agreement, but I can also assume you would agree they are a very good looker; so let’s look at their assets. Steller’s Jays have a black head and crest and a stunning blue body. In our area, the Pacific Northwest, their head has light blue forehead spots, and their wings and tail are blue with black bars. Their long legs are perfectly created for springboard jumping from limbs or even your deck railing after ravaging your bird feeder seed, right? They are definitely not afraid to show their themselves to us. So let’s look past this small annoyance of gluttony to understand more fully how to appreciate their stellar beauty and abilities, which characterize all Corvids that compile the larger birds in the family of Passerine Songbirds. This includes Jays, Magpies, Crows, and Ravens in our area; however, there are over 120 species of Corvidae worldwide.

The Steller’s Jay is most numerous in the dense coniferous woods of the mountains of the Pacific Northwest and the Northwest Coast. Their dark body colors blend well into the shadows acting as camouflage against predators. Speaking of predators, I was going to list a few birds that would alarm an adult Jay, but quickly changed my thoughts to a newly fledged Steller’s Jay and their biggest predator risk, the domestic cat. Many songbirds fledge to the ground, but not all, where parent teaches them the ropes of survival. Unfortunately, non-native animals such as dogs and cats present significant problems here. If possible, during the height of fledging, mid-spring thru early summer, take time to sit outside and take in the wonder of wildlife at the height of activity; it’s glorious to experience. Fledglings appear the size of adults but with short tails. Should you see a fledgling on the ground, do not be alarmed as they have not fallen out of their nest. But, please, gets cats and/or dogs to another location for maybe 3 days at most. This will give the parent time to finish their parental duties, for which they have put an enormous effort into feeding and rearing their young. Young nestlings and new fledglings are most vulnerable during these stages, and we can enter into their success by understanding their instinctual habits.

Most songbirds feed their young insects/ bugs because they require a very high protein content which is more readily available in meat. Parents will feed a high percentage of carnivorous foods to their young and this is why they pilferage other bird’s young during nesting season, including the eggshell which provides a very necessary calcium for strong hollow bones. This demise of another’s babies can really set some people off, but always remember the cycle of life; and it’s a tough one for wildlife. Only about 25% of all wildlife make it to one year old. Truly, only the strong survive.



Steller’s Jay

An adult Jay feeds on pine seeds, acorns, fruit, frogs, snakes, carrion, and insects. Jays are amongst the birds that cache food to eat later. They have a distensible esophagus to help them carry multiple food items at a time. They generally cache multiple seeds at once underground and in multiple locations called “scatter-hoarding” to minimize possibility of pilferage. Apparently, they actually watch other Jays as they cache their food and will often “re-cache” later when they believe other birds aren’t looking.

So there we have it, the Steller’s Jay is not only beautiful, they are smart and opportunistic as are all wildlife. This means that if you have gluttonous Jays gobbling down all the bird food, you are going to have to outsmart them. For me, that meant getting a feeder with weight-sensitive perches that close off seed availability when a bird the size of a Jay perches on it. (Panacea Products Absolute III Squirrel Resistant Weight Sensitive Bird Feeder-\$80—there are many types to choose from, I like the durable metal I’ve had for 10 years). This works well for me to keep the Jays at bay, and yet small birds can freely feed because they simply weigh less. Now, I do want to offer my Jays food, so I have a wire cylinder whole peanut feeder (pictured). The squirrels seem to have a hard time getting to the nuts, and I really enjoy watching the acrobatic Jays calculate their approach to getting a nut out of the wire feeder. I have a hinge-lid box for my squirrels; so all my visitors have access to a treat. I do periodically have to take them down when an opportunistic bear comes around. Staying smarter than these incredible critters we are so gifted with is not always easy, but with diligence I believe we can co-exist together in harmony; us and them, together.



Gold Country Wildlife Rescue
11251 B Ave., Auburn, CA 95603
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 4162, Auburn, CA 95604

Michelle Monique Dixon

May 14, 1960 - March 10, 2022



Michelle Monique Dixon, 62, of Dutch Flat, CA, passed on to her final adventure on March 10, 2022. Born May 14, 1960, in Miami, Florida, she was the daughter of Roger A. Dixon and Margie Sue Collins (Dixon).

The details of where she lived or worked feel trivial when you consider who she was and how she lived. Michelle was known to be peaceful, kind, gentle, and loving to all who knew her. While she had a dry sense of humor, she didn’t have a mean bone in her body. She was always an artist and loved to “find the artist within” each of us. She touched many hearts as an Art Docent, often staying in touch with her students and supporting them on their own art journeys. She was passionate about helping others, those in need, and was generous to a fault. She was strong and courageous and showed many that you can thrive and live a fulfilled life with a mental illness. She knew the healing power of art. Before she died, she was working to become certified as a peer counselor in order to expand her loving kindness to those who needed support. Michelle loved being a mom, and an Auntie Go-Go to many great nieces and nephews and even local kids. She talked on the phone every single day to a differing rotation of family, loved ones, friends, and acquaintances. She loved her little family so fiercely! She was so proud of her daughter and loved spending time with her husband. They were still so in love after 32 years together. Michelle was absolutely a Florida girl, loved to bask in the sunshine, loved visiting the beach, and loved-loved-loved listening to Jimmy Buffet. She was a free spirit whose light will continue to shine on us all together in community.

As a beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend; she will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her husband of 32 years, Sean D. North; daughter Margie R. Dixon-North and son-in-law Joseph A. Koons of Auburn, CA; step-mother Jean Devane of Winterhaven, FL; brothers Scott A. Dixon (Rebecca) of Dora, AL, and Brett O. Dixon of Largo, FL; sisters Dawn Dixon Cotter (Nicholas) of Georgetown, SC, and Donna Kilby of Winterhaven, FL; father-in-law David R. North Sr. of Morgan Hill, CA; sisters-in-law Marjorie A. North Curtis of Denver, CO, and Denise K. Hall of Sparks, NV; brother-in-law David R. North Jr. of Auburn, CA; nieces and nephews, Alexandra Cotter Wilkins, Matia C. Dixon, Dylan A. Dixon, Katie E. Dixon, Sarah Elizabeth Kimbrell Sanders, Samuel A. Dixon, Jacob C. North, and Maxwell D. Curtis; great-nieces and great-nephews, Ruby K. North, Aria R. A. North, Benjamin A. North Jr., Novalee B. Silva, Odette E. Silva, Everett W. Silva, Grayson J. Sanders, and Sebastien S. Wilkins. She was preceded in death by her mother, her father, her sister, Celeste A. Dixon, her nephew Benjamin A. North Sr., and her great-nephew, Maddux B. Silva.

Following a private, family burial, a potluck Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, March 26, at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge, 32775 Main St, Dutch Flat, CA 95714.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SPIRIT Peer Empowerment Center, 276 Gates Place, Grass Valley, CA 95945; (530) 274-1431; <https://spiritcenter.org/donate/>. If not financially accessible for you then please go play with some clay or paint or glitter or wool or crayons and remember Michelle while you do so. To share any memories or to express your condolences you may visit <https://www.chapeloftheangels.com/>.

Pacific Realty - Dutch Flat, CA
Suzanne Vidal, Realtor-Broker

email:pacificrealty2@gmail.com
phone: (360) 317-8083
CA RE Lic #00956435

Dutch Flat Pool News



By Mike Mutto

We are looking forward to a few improvements, thanks to everyone’s generosity and support for the BBQ last year. We will be working in the off-season (weather permitting) to re-build the volleyball court with a new lawn along with continued 21st century upgrades to the pump house controls. The Board also agreed to purchase some new deck chairs that will be set up for opening day.

At the time of this writing, we are a week away from the County contract award to build the new bathroom. Fingers are crossed in hopes of a local contractor being awarded the job with a bid that is within our budget. The pool was not spared from storm damage in December, but we really got lucky, considering. No buildings were damaged by the broken trees and our 3-phase power drop to the pump house was replaced by PG&E. We have a bit of cutting and brush removal yet to do with the County’s assistance.

The lifeguard positions that need to be filled this year are posted on the Placer County website: jobs@placercounty.com 6 positions need to be filled. 3-day training/certification classes by ARD are starting on 3/26 and 4/11/22. Click on “Aquatic Programs” on the ARD website for registration information. Please get out the word and recruit local kids and adults

to apply for the job. We need everyone’s support in this yearly quest for candidates.

As always, we will reimburse all training expenses upon hiring and provide a merit-based bonus at the end of the season. I am presently in negotiations with the County to increase the wages for all returning lifeguards. We are really hoping that the Stanfield’s will come back for another season. They are truly the best lifeguards we have had in many years and set a great example mentoring the new hires, setting the bar pretty darn high for everyone’s safety!

Save the dates and mark your calendars for the now “annual” Benefit BBQ to be held on Saturday July 30th. We should have tickets for sale when the pool opens Memorial weekend! The same band will be donating their service again this year. The Stetler family BBQ team has also set the

weekend aside to cook up and deliver our main courses.

The pool clean-up will be the weekend before Mother’s Day on Saturday April 30th. It will be great to see all you folks there to start our season off with a cleaned-up facility. Lunch and beverages will be gratefully provided. Afterwards we will be having our Board meeting, open to the public, hoping for all your community input and suggestions to keep the facility one of the best recreational assets on the mountain.

We, on the Board of Directors, would like to extend our thanks to a few new volunteer members. So, if you see Dave Brown. Kitty Thompson or Kathy Mutto around town give them a pat on the back and a big Thank You for stepping up to keep us strong and functioning!

We are once again really looking forward to a great new season with hopes of you all out there hustling us up some lifeguards.



Placer County Library Mobile Service Visits Alta and Dutch Flat

With gas prices rising quickly, aren’t we all looking for ways to cut back on our driving? Placer County Library Mobile Service is visiting Alta and Dutch Flat communities twice a month to bring library services to where you live. The Mobile Service issues library cards and brings all types of books, DVDs, crafts for kids, and more. The entire library collection is available to you and specific items you may want can be placed on hold through the Placer County Library website – placer.ca.gov/library. When placing a hold choose “Mobile Services” as your pickup location. When you’re notified that your hold is available for pickup rest assured that Library Mobile Service will be bringing it out at their next visit. Your items are not due back for 4 weeks and there are no late fees

But wait, there’s more! Library Mobile Service is bringing more than just materials. They host a book club at the Dutch Flat Community Center once a month. It’s a chance to gather with friends and meet some new ones too. The book club presents an opportunity to read a title or genre you might not have tried otherwise and then engage in a lively conversation about it. Here’s what we have on the horizon:



The Mobile Service issues library cards and brings all types of books, DVD’s, crafts for kids, and more.

SCHEDULE

Dutch Flat Community Center

Tuesdays 10 am – 12 pm

March 15
April 5 & 19
May 3 & 17
June 7 & 21

Alta Store

Thursdays 11 am – 12 pm

March 17
April 7 & 21
May 5 & 19
June 9 & 23

Book Club - Dutch Flat Community Center

Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30 am

April 19: “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate
May 17: “The Story of Edgar Sawtelle” by David Wroblewski
June 21: “A Fire Story” by Brian Fies



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John Sutter - Captain of Contrasts

Part Two

By Debby McClatchy

1847 was a difficult year for John Sutter. Most of his Indian laborers died during a measles epidemic. Sutter also contracted the disease, and, along with the effects of malaria and alcoholism, he never regained his physical strength. Using a cane, he was noticeably enfeebled. Needing more laborers for his mill projects, he hired many Mormon workers. He said they were the best he ever employed.

On January 24th, 1848, James Marshall found the famous gold nugget while inspecting the tail-race of a sawmill he was building for Sutter on the American River. It took Sutter a week to visit the site. Marshall “salted” the area with already found nuggets so Sutter could easily pick them up. He immediately bought a twenty year lease from the local Nisenans for \$150 worth of goods.

Sutter held many advantages that should have made him wealthy during the gold rush. His farms, herds of cattle, and sawmills could have fed and supplied hundreds of miners. His store was the largest in the area and right on a river navigable down to San Francisco. He was the local Indian agent with access to hundreds of laborers. But his character and the overwhelming number of arrivals instead led to his ruin.

Sutter’s main problem was always labor, and now his workforce deserted to search for gold. His lease from the Nisenans was declared void by the provisional U.S. government. Most of his Mormon workers left for Salt Lake City. Their California leader, Sam Brannan, stayed behind and became Sutter’s foremost competitor in the mercantile business. Sutter’s sawmills and unfinished gristmill lay dormant. But these troubles in 1848 were minimal compared to those generated by thousands of hopefuls who arrived in California in the spring of 1849.

Sutter’s drinking increased and shrewder, more ruthless men began to compete with his enterprises. By late May the Fort was overrun. Instead of using it to further his own interests, he rented space to others, an easier option. His fields lay fallow, his cattle unattended, his funds tied up in inoperable mills, and by June he was bankrupt. He had lived well by stretching his credit to the breaking point, and it finally broke.

In the midst of all this, Sutter’s family from Europe began to arrive at the Fort, starting with his son, August. Sutter had not seen him in fourteen years. The father had led the family on, sending false tales of riches and success. The cagey Sutter immediately signed all his holdings and their debts over to August.

Meanwhile Sacramento was becoming a town, with a grid of streets laid out between the river and the Fort. August hired an agent to sell properties, and, luckily for him, no floods happened that winter. August did so well, he was able to pay off his father’s debts, including the longstanding one to the Russians.

Unfortunately, August contracted a very serious case of malaria and Sutter unwisely took back his properties. He was out of debt but still in a perilous position. In gold rush California fortunes came and went with bewildering speed.

California was on the cusp of change. In 1848 the population was 14,000 non-Indians and 150,000 Indians. Three years



John Sutter

later it reversed to about 31,000 Indians and a quarter of a million others, almost all young males.

Though Sutter was not a U.S. citizen, he attended the California Constitutional Convention in Monterey in September, 1849. He even assumed the Head Chair after President Semple became ill. Sutter then ran for governor but came in last. He never ran for public office again. He had assumed his “people” would support him; instead, they built squatters’ encampments on his Sacramento properties.

Unfortunately, the winter of 1849/50 was very wet. Soon the new Sacramento was under twelve feet of water. This was followed by a fire and more floods. Sutter’s wife, Anna, daughter Elizabeth, and two other sons, Emil and Wilhelm, arrived in the midst of all this. All but Wilhelm were unattractive, morose, and knew no English; close friends of Sutter called them rude and overbearing.

The family quickly realized that Sutter was unstable in business matters; his drinking was painfully evident; and his debts were again accruing. Trusted agents were easily swindling him. Land rights became hazy as statehood loomed. Plagued by squatters at the Fort, the family moved out to Sutter’s second home in the foothills, Hock Farm.

Sutter assumed that statehood would validate his Mexican land grants. Meanwhile he planted grapes, recognizing that California’s climate was perfect for wine production. He also planted many European varieties of fruit and vegetables. None of this was profitable. By 1852 Hock Farm had been mortgaged six times. At least the new California Legislature had named the surrounding area, Sutter County.

By 1852 Sutter was again deeply in debt. A lavish wedding for his daughter and an extravagant lifestyle finally took its toll. Sutter tried to sell all his holdings for \$150,000, to John Steinberger, a San Francisco businessman. Steinberger planned to use profits from Hock Farm to pay his note, but these were so marginal, that the sale fell through.

Then disease again killed off most of Sutter’s Indian workers. Hock Farm lay fallow. More squatters took over the area. Amazingly, Sutter continued to enjoy public popularity, winning a top rank in the California militia, and Vice President of the new California Agricultural Society. In 1855 the California Claims Commission finally awarded twenty percent of Sutter’s holdings to him. But all were heavily mortgaged. Friends set up a “Sutter Relief Fund” which kept him afloat until 1860. His sons tried various enterprises, but were just as unsuccessful as their father.

Sutter now concentrated on his grape vines, now 17,000 strong and well-tended. But his many creditors were out of patience

California was on the cusp of change. In 1848 the population was 14,000 non-Indians and 150,000 Indians. Three years later it reversed to about 31,000 Indians and a quarter of a million others, almost all young males.

and most called in his debts. An adverse decision by the U.S. Supreme Court against his land grant claims was the final straw. By 1862 Sutter and his remaining family were the only residents at Hock Farm. They picked and packed figs for market, their only income. In 1864 the California Legislature awarded Sutter a small income. Hock Farm was renovated and took on guests. A disgruntled visitor then burned down the house, everything Sutter had accumulated, and the surrounding fields. Nothing was insured.

In 1865 Sutter and Anna left for Washington D.C., hoping to generate more financial support. He asked Congress to replace the half a million dollars he had lost in California, then reduced it to fifty thousand. It lingered for years and never passed. They became famous personalities in D.C., charming all with their stories about the West and a well-dressed appearance. They lived on their California income and what was left of Anna’s inheritance. But hotels there were expensive, and the rural, Germanic aspects of life in neighboring Pennsylvania beckoned.

They settled in the town of Lititz, Pennsylvania, where there were good schools for their grandchildren and a hundred-mile train ride to D.C. By 1869 they had sold any remaining holdings in California. Their oldest son, August, finally now a prosperous businessman, built them a fine home. The California Legislature extended their “pension”. Sutter seemed to drink less, but still kept an extensive wine cellar.

The first historian to write about Sutter was Hubert Howe Bancroft (the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley bears his name). Finding that Sutter had lied and self-aggrandized himself in interviews, Bancroft turned upon his host and laid out many damaging truths. He called him a “mere adventurer, entitled to no admiration or sympathy”. He also pointed out his alcoholism. Sutter was devastated. Future biographies relied heavily upon these writings.

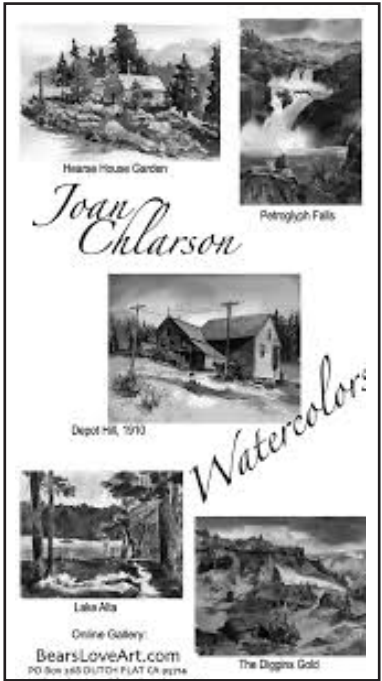
Although quite ill, Sutter still enjoyed a reputation as an important man. The newly formed Associated Pioneers made him their honorary president and presented him with a gold and redwood cane. But his health rapidly declined and he died on June 18, 1880, succumbing to a kidney infection after an unsuccessful trip to Washington D.C.

In death, Sutter received the memorials and accolades he had sought for so long in life. A symbol of a bygone frontier era, his open casket was visited by hundreds of mourners and the curious. Trombones played a tribute, even though Sutter had wanted trumpets. John C. Fremont spoke the eulogy. A poet wrote, “Old Pioneer! Thy name we still, in all our hearts enshrine; God’s golden crown thy portion be, dear friend of auld lang syne”. The California Pioneers sent a violet wreath, inscribed, “We loved him”.

At the time of his death, Sutter was debt-free. His net worth totaled about \$1800, plus his house in Lititz. A grieving Anna joined him six months later. Their home was sold and converted to a hardware store. The children dispersed into obscurity.

Sutter’s Fort collapsed. Only the central building remained, used first as an insane asylum, then as a pigsty. Plans to demolish it in 1888 spurred the Native Sons of the Golden West to purchase the site, begin reconstruction, and eventually turn it over to the State. Today it is an Historic State Park with many visitors. Letitz, Pennsylvania, is now a tourist destination with a renovated Sutter home and a General Sutter Inn.

There were both criticisms and memorials. Sutter was linked to Napoleon and Jesus. Others felt cheated by his cons and schemes. Like many famous men, Sutter’s contradictions will forever fuel controversy.



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Commissioner Lara announces new regulations to improve wildfire safety and drive down cost of insurance

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Today Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced new regulations intended to improve wildfire safety and drive down the cost of insurance for homeowners and businesses. Under the proposed regulations, which could be in effect by this summer, insurance companies would be required to factor consumers’ and businesses’ wildfire safety actions into their pricing of residential and commercial coverage. The new regulations also will provide consumers with transparency about their “wildfire risk score” that insurance companies assign to properties. These regulations address complaints Commissioner Lara heard from many consumers and businesses across the state that insurance companies are unwilling to account for steps taken to harden their properties and communities against wildfire, lowering their risk of loss and damage.

“With more Californians rolling up their sleeves and reaching into their own pockets to protect their homes and businesses, insurance pricing must reflect their efforts,” said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. “Holding insurance companies accountable for accurately rating wildfire risk in the premiums they charge Californians will help save lives and reduce losses. My new regulations will help encourage a competitive insurance market for all by putting safety first and driving down costs for consumers.”

The announced regulations incorporate the [new “Safer from Wildfires” framework](#), a list of achievable, expert-endorsed actions that will help save lives and reduce risk for property owners. Commissioner Lara unveiled the Safer from Wildfires framework with state emergency leaders on February 14, marking the first time that state agencies have been brought together to identify a common insurance framework of mitigation actions for existing homes and businesses.

By requiring insurance companies to utilize the Safer from Wildfires framework in their pricing for insurance, Commissioner Lara is sending a strong signal to consumers about the need to better prepare for extreme wildfires – which will lead to a more competitive market for all California residents and businesses. Specifically, the regulations will require insurance companies to comply with Proposition 103, passed by voters in 1988 to give the Insurance Commissioner authority to approve rates set by insurance companies, by incorporating the new framework in “wildfire risk scores” that insurance companies commonly use to rate individual and commercial properties.

In community meetings and town halls that Commissioner Lara held across California before the pandemic and in his virtual



Safer from Wildfires Framework

investigatory wildfire hearing in October 2020, consumers described taking action to protect their homes – often at the cost of thousands of dollars out of pocket – while many insurance companies simply declined to recognize the value of these actions. Still other insurance companies assigned opaque wildfire risk scores to increase the price of insurance for a given property. Consumers rarely know their property’s wildfire risk scores let alone how to improve them, even though these scores are a critical factor in many insurance companies’ decisions about how much to charge for insurance.

These regulations will help Commissioner Lara increase consumer discounts that insurance companies offer for safer homes and businesses, which has been a major focus of his comprehensive strategy to reduce the growing threat of wildfires. Currently, 17 insurance companies representing 40 percent of the insurance marketplace have answered Commissioner Lara’s call to offer discounts, up from just 7 percent of the market when Commissioner Lara took office three years ago, demonstrating expanding

New proposed regulations incorporate recently announced “Safer from Wildfires” framework to protect existing homes and communities

options for consumers. View the list of [insurance companies currently offering discounts](#) at the Department of Insurance website.

These regulations also increase transparency by providing an opportunity for consumers and businesses to review their property’s risk score or other factors used in pricing for accuracy based on mitigation work they have undertaken. Consumers and businesses will be able to appeal scores or other factors insurance companies use to assess wildfire risk.

Fire chiefs and consumer advocates joined Commissioner Lara in calling for increased wildfire safety efforts.

“By rewarding homeowners and

businesses for the wildfire safety actions they take, these regulations will be a huge assist to our efforts to prevent the severe loss of life and property from wildfires like we saw in the devastating Thomas Fire and debris flow that followed,” said Montecito Fire Chief Kevin Taylor, who [testified at the investigatory hearing](#) the Department of Insurance held in October 2020. “I am glad to see the state supporting local communities like ours with wildfire safety programs like this.”

“This is the most significant, concrete step forward on wildfire safety that brings all of the pieces together to help Californians maintain and obtain high quality insurance at a reasonable cost,” said Novato Fire District Chief Bill Tyler, who also testified at the investigatory hearing. “This helps people take back control over their risk by having insurance companies recognize their efforts.”

“Now that experts concur and the Safer from Wildfires framework has been established, we need regulations to ensure that consistent and clear rewards will be in place to incentivize and accomplish wildfire risk reduction at the parcel and community level,” said Amy Bach, United Policyholders’ Executive Director and architect of the Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection (WRAP) working group that contributed to the Safer from Wildfires framework. “United Policyholders commends Commissioner Lara for this important progress.”

“California’s farmers, ranchers and agriculture communities are very appreciative of Commissioner Lara’s work to create an insurance framework we can all use to make our businesses safer from wildfires,” said Jamie Johansson, President of the California Farm Bureau Federation. “By pricing insurance to recognize farmers’ wildfire safety efforts, these regulations will help drive insurance companies to better support our agriculture sector, which is not only critical to our state but to our entire country.”

The Department of Insurance invites the public to testify on the new regulations at a [hearing on April 13](#) or in writing.

Golden Drift Historical Society needs Docents

By Sarah Fugate

The Golden Drift Museum opens for the 2022 season on Friday, May 27. From that day, through the end of September, the Museum will be open Friday through Sunday, noon until 4 pm. The Museum is also open on holidays and for some special events.

The Golden Drift Historical Society recruits and trains volunteer Docents to staff the Museum. We are always in need of new Docents. Now is the time to volunteer your time. No experience is necessary and you will have the opportunity to learn about the unique history of our area.

To volunteer, please visit our website: www.goldendrift.org, click on the “Volunteer” button, fill out and submit the form. Or, call Placer County Museums Division at (530) 889-6500. It is a simple process to get signed up and a fulfilling way to give back to your community.



Dutch Flat Community Center
933 Stockton Street,
P. O. Box 14
Dutch Flat CA 95714
Membership form

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (optional)

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(optional - We'll send you updates on events, activities and volunteer requests)

Donation amount: \$ _____

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The Dutch Flat Community Center is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible (TIN 68-0484699).

St. Patrick's Day Festivities at the Community Center



Nancy Longnecker and Ken Weatherwax

By Sarah Fugate

Historically, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of Irish culture. Specifically, it memorializes the death of St. Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints, who brought Christianity to Ireland during the 5th century. The holiday has been celebrated in what is now the United States since 1601.

Wearing of green on St. Patrick's Day was popularized by Irish immigrants in the United States who believed that wearing green made them visible to leprechauns, fairy creatures who pinch anyone they see.

The Dutch Flat Community Center hosted a fundraising St. Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday, March 12. The event was sold out. A great time was had by all. As is customary, the celebration included dance, drink, and feasting on the traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage.



Jono and Natalie Armstrong

Alta residents, Jono and Natalie Armstrong, volunteered their time and skills to prepare the meal. Jono's Mom, Marion, Dad, Gregg, and Sister, Laura, served as greeter, Master of Ceremonies and assistant to the MC. Natalie's Mom, Mary Singer, and neighbor, Annette Purther, helped in the preparation and serving of the meal.

Musical entertainment was provided by Malarkey.

Upcoming events at DFCC include:

- Easter event - Saturday, April 16
- Spring Artisan Faire - Saturday, June 4
- White Elephant and Estate Treasures Sale-Saturday, September 3, & Sunday, September 4
- Halloween event - October 31
- Potluck - Monthly, third Thursday



Bill and Nancy Gallaher



Annette Purther




Local band: Malarkey. L-R: Connor Hanley, James Zila, Paul Roux, and Ron Johnson.

Rainbow Music Company
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(530) 346-8369 Rob Bonner PO Box 1234
MUSICIAN / TEACHER Colfax, Ca. 95713
robertbonner8@gmail.com

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